

Rep. Rick Hansen:
2023
407 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

March 6,

Chair Hansen:

I am writing to express my dissatisfaction with use of Sales Tax money being spent by the Board of Soil and Water Resources and in additional farmland drainage and structural solutions to erosion and sediment control. I know that you know the problem because you have previously opposed plastic drainage materials and posted lengths of tiles in particular counties in west-central Minnesota. It seems to be a problem of one hand not knowing what the other is doing. Are we not trying to preserve potholes for migratory ducks. One land owner does, and then the one above them make it overflow and flood their barn. BWSR is funding this through technical assistance. The Farmer Magazine extols these as conservation accomplishments. So they get some good corn yields in the wetlands. But then what happens to the carbon that was in the soil and methane from the downstream land that they flooded! I would think that you also are the expert on what will happen with corn root-worm on this wet ground. If they want to continue farming it, they will need some potent, soil active insecticides.

BWSR has become a fiefdom of arrogance. Who is going to call them on this? The problem comes to a head when they expand beyond their traditional role in agriculture. They have been obtaining ACUB forest easements under the guise of "working lands" and then locking them up. Not only is this inconsistent with the West-central Forest Landscape Plan of the FRC, which I have volunteered on for over 15 years, it is unethical. They need to get rid of their easement specialist and quit obscuring title to private lands. In all the years that they have been doing this, they still have not figured out how to coordinate with other professionals. The guy just wasted a month of my time with out a hint of apology and then left me a phone message further discrediting my livelihood. I am not wealthy enough to be messed with like this.

I apologize for writing this hastily. The Easement Specialist told me way back in December that they would be 1099ing for about five million dollars in RIM. for 2022. I would like to see their future RIM funding limited to keeping wetlands from being further reduced or impaired. They can extend to forest easements once they comprehend what the voters intended by protecting forests in the Lessard-Sams Constitutional Ammendment.

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